



'BUILDING SOLIDARITY IN ASYLUM POLICY'

4th & 5th November. Brussels

Biography

Kasethu Kyenge was born in Kambove (Haut-Katanga District) in the Democratic Republic of Congo in August 28th 1964.

In 1983, she arrived in Italy where she graduated in medicine and surgery at the Catholic University of Sacro Cuore in Rome, then she had a speciality grade in ophthalmology at University of Modena. Afterwards, she worked as oculist in several general outpatients clinic in Modena and Reggio Emilia's areas.

In 2002 she founded the Association for Intercultural DAWA ("dawa" is a Kiswahili word meaning "medicine"), with the aim of promoting mutual understanding of different cultures and develop processes of awareness, integration and cooperation between Italy and Africa, particularly in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Political activity

In 2004 she was elected councilor in the district of Modena for the Democratic Party (PD).

In 2009 she was elected provincial councilor in Modena for the Democratic Party (PD) and she was in charge of immigration policies and international cooperation for the Emilia Romagna region.

In 2013 she was elected member of the Chamber of Deputies for the PD, becoming Minister for Integration in Letta's government in April 2013.

In 2013 she was included, at the 23° position, in "100 Leading Global Thinkers" list, published yearly by the American Foreign Policy Magazine.

In May 2014 she was elected Member of European Parliamento.

Also in 2014 she published the book "Ho sognato una strada" edited by Piemme, about the asset that mixed race people give to Italy.